I. AMENDMENTS

<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**</u>

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-65.   (Canceled)

66.   (Currently amended) A method for predicting the likelihood that a human colon cancer patient will exhibit a clinically beneficial patient response to treatment with cetuximab, the method comprising:

a) assaying a normalized level of a predictive RNA transcript in a sample comprising ErbB1-expressing colon cancer cells obtained from said patient, wherein the predictive RNA transcript is the transcript of laminin gamma 2 (LAMC2);

b) analyzing the normalized level of the LAMC2 transcript; and

c) predicting the likelihood of response of the patient to treatment with cetuximab ~~based on the~~ <u>by comparing the</u> normalized level of the LAMC2 transcript <u>to gene expression data obtained from reference samples derived from patients with colon cancer</u>, wherein an increased normalized level of LAMC2 RNA transcript correlates with <u>a decreased likelihood of response</u> ~~resistance of the colon cancer~~ to treatment with cetuximab.

67.   (Canceled)

68.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein said sample is a tissue sample.

69.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the tissue sample is fixed, paraffin-embedded, or fresh, or frozen.

70.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein the tissue sample is derived from fine needle, core, or other types of biopsy.

71.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 66, further comprising the step of preparing a report comprising a statement whether the patient is likely to respond to treatment with cetuximab.

72.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the normalized level of the LAMC2 RNA transcript is determined using an array comprising polynucleotides hybridizing to a LAMC2 gene immobilized on a solid surface.

73.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein said polynucleotides are cDNAs.

74.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 73, wherein said cDNAs are about 500 to about 5000 bases.

75.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein said polynucleotides are oligonucleotides.

76.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein said oligonucleotides are about

20 to 80 bases long.

77.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the array comprises about 330,000 oligonucleotides.

78.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein said solid surface is glass.

79.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 68, wherein RNA is isolated from colon cancer cells present in a fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue by a procedure comprising:

(a)   incubating one or more sections of said fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue at a temperature of about 56 °C to 70 °C in a lysis buffer, in the presence of a protease, without prior dewaxing, to form a lysis solution;

(b)   cooling the lysis solution to a temperature where the paraffin solidifies, thereby generating a cooled lysis solution; and

(c)   isolating the RNA from said cooled lysis solution.

80.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 66, further comprising the use of a kit comprising one or more of (1) extraction buffer/reagents for extracting mRNA from a sample and protocol; (2) reverse transcription buffer/reagents and protocol; and (3) quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) buffer/reagents and protocol suitable for performing the method of claim 66.

81.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein said polynucleotides comprise modified and unmodified polynucleotides.

82.   (Canceled)

83.   (Canceled)